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THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Some of the recommendations seem to be such as to require a thorough examination."

State aid to Burma evacuees.

* 73 *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government rendered aid to evacuees from Burma and if so, the nature of the aid given and up to what date and also the conditions and regulations relating to the grant of such assistance; and

(*b*) whether any assistance is still granted to enable such evacuees to rehabilitate themselves or secure suitable employment and if so, the conditions relating thereto?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Attention is invited to the papers[a] placed on the table of the House."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Sir, was the financial assistance rendered to the evacuees treated as loan or as free gift? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" All the information that is available with the Government has been furnished to the hon. Member in the paper placed on the table of the House."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Sir, I would like to know whether the amount that was advanced . . ."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" The Hon. Minister would like you to read the paper."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" I have read the paper, and my question directly arises out of the information furnished in it."

MR. CHAIRMAN :—" You have not got the information? "

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" No. That is why I am putting this question. If the information is in the paper, why should I put the question? On this question I have to put some other questions."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Assistance was sanctioned by the Government of India and administered by the State Government as the Central Government's Agent on the following lines till 28th February 1948 :—

(i) Maintenance allowances paid monthly at a scale based on a consideration of the pre-evacuation income of the recipient.

(ii) School allowances to children, in addition to maintenance allowances.

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[a] Printed as Appendix III on page 36 infra.

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(iii) Special non-recurring allowances, in addition to maintenance allowances, in cases of real necessity for provision of clothing, medical requirements, and funerals and travelling.

(iv) Capital advances to enable evacuees to start in some line of business or trade.

(v) Advances to evacuees who have passed the Matriculation or other equivalent examinations and who are considered suitable by the Provincial Governments for learning Shorthand and Typewriting or Typewriting alone.

(vi) Grants to evacuee University students.

(vii) Grants for passage to United Kingdom and elsewhere.

The cost of the assistance was about Rs. 40 lakhs. The scheme was wound up by the Central Government on 28th February 1948."

JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question is whether the amounts advanced under the several heads mentioned in the paper have been treated as loans or as free gifts. If I may be permitted to say, my information is that the Government of India treated these as loans, and these poor people have been asked to repay the amount, and in many cases those people who want to go to Burma, have been refused passports on the ground that they have not repaid the advances. There are also instances in which these people, including poor women, have been asked to go to the headquarters of the Tahsildar, walking 7 or sometimes 10 miles, to give statements to the Tahsildar of their inability to repay the advances. I have presided over certain meetings at which resolutions in this behalf have been passed and communicated to the Government. What steps have been taken by the Government on the representations made by the people that they are unable to pay the advances? Have the Government addressed the Central Government asking them to treat these advances as free gifts and not to insist on the repayment of the advances? These are matters about which I would like to have a definite answer from the Hon. Minister concerned. If the Hon. Minister is not able to give the information to-day, he may give it on the next day."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Sir, I see that the Hon. Member has lot of information himself. I find that some of the items have been given as loans. All those items are repayable advances on a monthly basis under a scheme enunciated by the Government of India. The rules and conditions relating to the scheme of assistance to evacuees by the Government of India are contained in what is called 'A Resumé of Instructions issued by the Government of India.' The State Government are acting as the agent of the Central Government. If the hon. Member has got any particular information or any suggestions to make in this matter, I would suggest to him to write to the Government, and we will take up the matter with the Central Government."

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JANAB K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM :—" Sir, as a matter of fact representations have been made to the Government of Madras communicating resolutions passed at certain meetings pointing out the actual grievances of the people. I would like to know whether this Government have taken steps on those representations, and whether they have represented to the Government of India regarding the inability of the people to repay the advances and the hardships to which they have been subjected on account of the insistence of the Government of India on the repayment of these loans."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" In view of the fact that assistance was stopped from the year 1948 (and we are now in 1952), and that Government have not been able to collect anything towards the advances made already, will the Government of Madras now address the Government of India pointing out that every effort had been made by this Government for the recovery of advances, that they have not been able to recover anything and that therefore, the advances may be written off? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I shall examine the suggestion of the hon. Member."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether disabled evacuees, evacuees who have become too old to earn, evacuee women and children who cannot earn their living, and all other hard cases also have been deprived of the allowances which they were receiving in 1948? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" While appreciating the anxiety of the hon. Member to help those people, I can only give an assurance to him that the Government will examine the question, and take it up with the Government of India."

Investigation of Krishna-Pennar Project.

* 74 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state what progress has been made in the investigation of the Krishna-Pennar Project and the particulars so far available regarding the project with special reference to its layout, the area commanded by it and the districts benefited by it?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" The investigation has been completed. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the particulars given by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) in his brochure on the project, copies of which have already been laid on the table of the House for information. The project report has just been received by the Government and is being examined."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" May I know, Sir, roughly what amount of time will it take for the project to fructify? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I cannot say."